

Pollinator and Native Plant Garden on the Mark Twain National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

Work on the pollinator and native plant gardens continued at Poplar Bluff, Potosi and Eleven Point Ranger Districts.

This spring there was a bumper crop of monarch caterpillars using *Asclepias tuberosa* at the native garden at the Poplar Bluff Ranger District office. The first graders at Eugene Fields had been studying butterflies and had "grown" a painted lady in the classroom. Approximately 125 students took turns viewing the caterpillars, and many wanted to touch them. Most knew the four life cycle stages of a butterfly, and one knew the differences between the butterfly chrysalis and moth cocoon.

A new interpretive panel has been ordered for the Potosi native garden and new plants were planted.

The Mark Twain used NFN3 monies to enter into a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Lincoln University Cooperative Extension Native Plants Program to collect seed and propagate native plant material from the Mark Twain National Forest to:

- augment restoration efforts of natural terrestrial plant communities on the MTNF.
- Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation and other areas of disturbance that may require restoration.
- Native/Pollinator gardens located at administrative site on the Mark Twain National Forest and in the Native Plant Outdoor Laboratory and other native plant demonstration gardens located at the University campus and LU- Experimental Farms.



Figure 1. New interpretive panel at the Potosi Ranger District



Figure 2. LUCE collecting seed at Western Star Flatwoods Savanna

In April 2012, a new native plant and pollinator garden will be planted at the Supervisors office. Plant markers have been ordered and plant material from LU and local suppliers will be used. A work day has been scheduled with a local Boy Scout Troop for April 21st.

Year Awarded: 2011

Project completion: 2011

Report Number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2011):

Interpretive panel: \$1,525.00

CCSA LUCE: \$8,000

Plant Markers for SO garden: \$325.00

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